



# The McCue Report

Proudly Serving the Eighth District's South Shore

Winter 2005/2006

## Runway Dog Exercise Area is Taking Off

As the author of the resolution creating the Runway Dog Exercise Area, I am happy to announce that it is open.

The Runway Dog Exercise Area is located in the City of Oak Creek off of Rawson Avenue behind the golf driving range. The exercise area encompasses 27 acres of fenced land with many walking trails.

The location is perfect because there are no residential neighborhoods nearby and the unused field is owned by Milwaukee County.

Capital costs to create the exercise area were \$95,000, and it is expected that user fees will cover capital and operating costs, not property taxes. Since August 2005 the Runway Dog Exercise Area has generated over \$8,000 in revenue.

Creating the Runway Dog Exercise Area was a long process with a lot of bureaucratic red tape that had to be cut. To use the airport land Milwaukee County had to get approvals from the Federal Aviation Administration, Wisconsin Department of Transportation and City of Oak Creek. The exercise area is state-of-the-art and is the only one on airport property in the country.

The opening of the exercise area was postponed due to the parks systems' discovery of poison ivy. Complete eradication of the poison ivy could take a few years. However, our park crews are



constantly looking for poison ivy. When it is spotted the crews will spray it and mark the areas with flags.

Although it seems like a nice gesture to share a water bowl with other dogs, it could spread infection or disease. For your dog's well being please keep this in mind while enjoying your visit.

I hope you and your dog enjoy the Runway Dog Exercise Area. With time it will only get better. The parks department will continue to improve the trails and add picnic tables and benches. If you have any ideas on how to improve the area please let me know.

FEES	
Annual- Regular	\$20
Seniors	10
Disabled	10
Daily	5
Additional Dog	5
Replacement Tag	10

Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health. At the beginning of this term my colleagues unanimously elected me to serve as the Second Vice Chairman of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. It is an honor but with that honor comes increased responsibility.

Good things are happening in Milwaukee County. The Zoo completed their new feline house. The Oak Leaf Bike Trail on the St. Francis shoreline was completed last summer. The Seven Bridges is receiving long overdue major maintenance. A basketball court and tennis courts were replaced at Sheridan Park. And the golf course clubhouses at Warnimont and Grant Park received needed capital improvements.

This term my committee assignments include: Finance and Audit, Vice Chairman; Parks, Energy and Environment; and Intergovernmental Relations. The county executive reappointed me to serve on the Milwaukee County Federated Library System where I was elected to Vice President.

I have and will continue to work hard to restore integrity and trust back into the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

I hope 2006 brings you happiness and prosperity. If I can ever be of service to you please feel free to contact me at 278-4231 (work), 489-1318 (home) or via e-mail at [mccue@milwcnty.com](mailto:mccue@milwcnty.com).

Yours truly,

*Ryan McCue*



Milwaukee County Courthouse  
Supervisor Ryan P. McCue  
901 N. Ninth St. Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
[mccue@milwcnty.com](mailto:mccue@milwcnty.com)  
278-4231

Current resident or

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US POSTAGE  
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MILWAUKEE, WI  
PERMIT 1630

POOL ATTENDANCE  
INCREASED IN 2005

In an effort to increase pool attendance this past summer, I authored a resolution that gave all Milwaukee County school children a free one day pass for the first week our pools were open. This initiative was a success, and I look forward to doing it again next year. Pool attendance countywide was up 45 percent, Sheridan Pool was up 39 percent and Grobschmidt Pool was up 29 percent. Because of the increases in attendance, during the 2006 budget deliberations there was no debate on closing any pools.

COUNTY HONORS  
PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS

At the request of Purple Heart recipient Bud Bessler, I authored a resolution that sub-named the section of the Oak Leaf Trail that extends through Sheridan and Warnimont Parks to the Oak Leaf- Purple Heart Trail. These are unique veterans and this is a unique way to honor them. New signs will be posted this spring.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED  
THE GEESE

It's easy to think that you are helping the geese when you feed them, but the reality is that it is altering their migration habits and now thousands of geese call the Milwaukee County Parks home. Feeding the geese encourages them to stay in our parks rather than continuing their migration.

The average goose produces three and a half pounds of waste everyday. This creates a health hazard and a mess for those using our parks. Milwaukee County is using many different methods to reduce the population, but we will not be successful without your cooperation.

SHOWER INSTALLED AT  
GRANT PARK BEACH HOUSE

The biggest complaint I received regarding the Grant Park beach house was that it did not have a shower. I am happy to report that this past fall an outdoor shower was installed. Other enhancements include: new landscaping, benches and garbage cans.

Milwaukee County Board  
Adopts 2006 Budget

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors recently approved a county budget for 2006. I voted against the budget, because I felt the county board added too many amendments that I disagreed with which increased the tax levy. I authored budget amendments that called for over \$864,000 worth of tax levy savings.

As the Vice Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee, I thoroughly reviewed the county executive’s budget. There were three major budget amendments that I supported: restoring funding to the courts, reducing bus fare hikes and lowering future pension costs.

According to Chief Judge Kitty Brennan, the proposal to cut court operations by abolishing 25% of the staff would have resulted in costly delays in processing criminal and civil cases and may have closed small claims court. The county board restored the positions to help maintain citizen access to the justice system and expedite inmate processing to help avoid costly jail overcrowding.

The county board also rolled back a proposed 23 percent bus fare increase on regular riders to less than eight percent to keep it affordable for people to get to work, school or shop. The county board wants to keep the bus system one of the best in the country because it directly affects the economic vitality of our community.

The county executive also proposed under-funding the employee pension contribution requested by the

independent pension board by almost \$27 million. This would have resulted in a long-term cost to taxpayers of over \$69 million according to professional actuaries. Instead, the county board chose to contribute an additional \$8.2 million to help reduce future pension costs and avoid the "effect of passing debt on to future taxpayers," as stated by the actuaries.

The 2006 budget also provides a 2 percent cost-of-living raise for county employees and increases the employee contribution for health insurance costs. County supervisors will not get a raise and our salaries will remain at the 2000 level until at least 2008, but we will also pay substantially more for health insurance coverage in 2006.

In 2004, Milwaukee County merged the Parks Department with the Department of Public Works to form the Department of Parks and Public Infrastructure. I completely disagreed with this move, however at that time I was in the minority. The 2006 budget reverses that action, creating two separate departments. This action was taken by the county board to underscore how important parks are to our community and quality of life.

The 2006 budget contains total expenditures of \$1.25 billion and a property tax levy of \$232.5 million. The 2.97 percent change in the tax levy for 2006 is almost 20 percent less than the state-imposed tax levy limit. The property tax rate per \$1,000 of equalized value is \$4.07, which is a decrease of 47 cents per \$1,000 from 2005.

OAK LEAF TRAIL  
OFFERS WONDERFUL VIEWS  
IN St. FRANCIS

The St. Francis portion of the Oak Leaf Trail was completed this summer. The trail offers wonderful views of Lake Michigan and downtown Milwaukee.

I think the trail is a great addition to the St. Francis lakefront. Residents will have better access to the lake than in the past.

The original Oak Leaf Trail segment in St. Francis was eight feet wide, over 20-years-old, 2,700 feet long and was located within the right-of-way of State Trunk Highway 32.

The new trail is 10 feet wide, constructed of asphalt and is approximately 5,700 feet in length located on the

shoreline of Lake Michigan reconnecting the trail between Bay View Park and Sheridan Park. The Oak Leaf Trail is 99 miles long and loops around Milwaukee County.

FRIENDS OF GRANT PARK  
SPONSOR PARKS FORUM

On Tuesday, January 31st from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Wil-O-Way building in Grant Park, the Friends of Grant Park will sponsor a free parks forum. Topics will range from, but are not limited to, budget restraints, grounds management, control of invasive species, infrastructure challenges, criminal behavior, and water quality issues. I look forward to participating in the forum. I always appreciate opportunities like this for people to get involved in their community.

Would you like information on Milwaukee County?

There are several brochures and booklets available for Milwaukee County residents through my office.  
Please check what you would like to receive and send this form to:

Milwaukee County Courthouse  
Attn: Supervisor Ryan P. McCue  
901 N. Ninth St. Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

- \_\_\_\_\_ Milwaukee County Map

\_\_\_\_\_ Milwaukee County Transit Guide

\_\_\_\_\_ Milwaukee Public Museum Brochure

\_\_\_\_\_ Oak Leaf Trail Map

\_\_\_\_\_ Milwaukee County Parks Recreation Guide

\_\_\_\_\_ Milwaukee County War Memorial Brochure

\_\_\_\_\_ Milwaukee County Phone Directory

\_\_\_\_\_ McCue to Speak at a Community Event
- Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



# Seven Bridges in National Spotlight

We should all be very proud that Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton announced that The Seven Bridges Trail was designated as one of the 37 new National Recreation Trails in the National Trails System. No other trail in the State of Wisconsin received this prestigious award this year. Seven Bridges will receive a certificate of designation and National Recreation Trail markers.

The Seven Bridges Trail is a 2-mile nature trail and the focal point of Grant Park, one of the oldest parks in Milwaukee County. This unique trail contains a series of bridges and walkways routed through a set of ravines that bisect the park, exemplifying the grand vision of the early 20th century Milwaukee County Park Commission to provide a well-designed natural oasis amid the expansion of the city.

The trail draws thousands of visitors from the Milwaukee area and beyond, including school groups who visit the trail to study nature. The park hosts a wide variety of native flora, such as yellow birch trees and trout lilies, as well as many migratory birds. In addition to its natural resources, the trail offers access to Lake Michigan and allows for recreational activities such as hiking, wildlife observation, and photography.



There are now more than 900 National Recreation Trails that have been designated throughout the United States, totaling more than 10,000 miles. Receiving the National Recreation Trail designation is an honor given out to those existing trails that have been nominated and meet the requirements for connecting people to local resources and improving their quality of life.

More information is available online at:  
<http://www.nps.gov/rta>

## An Update on the Airport Noise Study

Milwaukee County hired the Barnard Dunkelberg Company to update the federal "Part 150" study of aircraft noise in the neighborhoods around Mitchell Airport. The study name comes from Federal Aviation Regulation Part 150, which spells out how the studies must be conducted and what information they must include.

Using the Part 150 model, the consultants have measured the aircraft noise and are developing "noise contours" that show noise levels overlaid on a city map. Next, the consultant will analyze how different aircraft takeoff and landing procedures might change the contours, toward a goal of reducing the number of homes that lie within a contour. Within the next few months, there will be a public information workshop to explain the procedures that are being looked at, and what impact they would have on surrounding neighborhoods. Finally, the consultant will recommend

other noise abatement measures, such as sound insulation or sales assistance, for homes that qualify for federal funding because they are within the 65 DNL noise contour.

There will then be a public hearing on the study, and after it is adopted by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, it will be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration for approval.

A few weeks before the next public information workshop, a newsletter will be sent to 50,000 residents around the airport giving the date and time of the workshop and explaining what will be presented. Study chapters that have been completed so far can be read on the airport's web site at [www.mitchellairport.com](http://www.mitchellairport.com) by clicking on the Airport Projects link, then the Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study link.



*Supervisor McCue authored a resolution congratulating Dennis Kaluzny for being inducted into the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. "Mr. Kaluzny has contributed to the betterment of our community through his tireless hours of volunteer work," McCue said.*



*Melissa Dziedzic, graduate of Cudahy High School, joined Supervisor McCue during the fifth annual Milwaukee County Student Government Day.*

## Round Table Discussions: Your Opportunity to Participate in Milwaukee County Government

Since I was first elected in June of 2002, I have held monthly "Round Table Discussions" to discuss county issues with eighth district residents. I have gained valuable insight and advice regarding county matters while hosting these meetings.

I feel it is important that I am accessible to constituents, and they deserve to be able to voice their opinions to me face-to-face. I truly appreciate hearing your thoughts, ideas and opinions on how we can improve Milwaukee County Government.

At these meetings we review important legislation that will appear before the county board at its monthly meeting, as well as other issues raised by those in attendance.

Please join me at one of the upcoming Round Table Discussions. If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact me at 278-4231 or [mccue@milwcnty.com](mailto:mccue@milwcnty.com).

### Roundtable Discussion Dates for 2006

Date	Where*
Tuesday, January 31	Oak Creek Library
Tuesday, March 7	Cudahy Family Library
Tuesday, April 11	South Milwaukee Library
Tuesday, May 16	South Milwaukee Library
Tuesday, June 20	Cudahy Family Library
Tuesday, July 25	Oak Creek Library
<b>August Summer Recess</b>	
Tuesday, September 26	South Milwaukee Library
Tuesday, October 31	Oak Creek Library
Tuesday, December 12	South Milwaukee Library

**The discussion will be from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**

Oak Creek Library, 8620 S. Howell Ave. 768-6570

Cudahy Family Library, 3500 Library Dr. 769-2244

South Milwaukee Library, 1907 10th Ave. 768-8195

\* The St. Francis Library will be under construction in 2006



# State Officials Fail to Listen to Voters

In an effort to push for real property tax relief, County Supervisor Richard Nyklewicz, Jr., myself and other supervisors authored a resolution which put an advisory referendum question on the April 5, 2005 general election ballot. The referendum asked voters whether the State of Wisconsin should pay for the cost of the state mandated courts system and human service programs.

Out of Wisconsin's 72 counties, 69 of them had the questions on their ballots. The electorate's response was overwhelming: 85 percent voted in favor of full state funding for human services programs and 86 percent voted in favor of full state funding for circuit courts.

Property taxpayers already pay 70 percent of the

costs necessary to operate the state court system in Milwaukee County. In fact, Milwaukee County's property tax levy contribution to run the State Circuit Courts system has increased by almost \$9.3 million or roughly 40 percent since 1999, while the state's contribution has remained largely stagnant.

The state's Legislative Fiscal Bureau released a study stating that through state increased fees, the state is profiting over \$18 million from the county run circuit court system and spending the profits in other general accounts.

The state is also raising the rate it charges counties for housing juvenile offenders at state correctional facilities by 12 percent. It is estimated that this increase will cost Milwaukee County taxpayers

about \$2.7 million over the next two years.

There is a direct correlation between the quality of life services Milwaukee County provides and state mandates. As the costs of mandates go up, the quality of life services go down.

Please call your legislator and urge them to listen to the voters and fund the state mandates. Eighth district state legislators include: Senator Jeff Plale 1-800-361-5487, Representatives Mark Honadel 1-888-534-0021 and Christine Sinicki 1-888-534-0020.

## McCUE AUTHORS INMATE WORK TRAINING RESOLUTION

Supervisor McCue authored a resolution, which passed unanimously in the Judiciary Committee, that requested a study on the feasibility of using inmates at the House of Corrections to clean and detail Milwaukee County's vehicle fleet. This initiative will teach inmates a trade and a work ethic and will enable them to get a good paying job after they are released. It will also give them something productive to do while serving their time in jail. Unfortunately, this resolution is being held up on the board floor.

## McCUE RECEIVES COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Parks People named Supervisor McCue the recipient of the 2005 Teschner Award for Outstanding Public Park Service. "Supervisor McCue, we applaud your vision for citizen involvement in our parks. You have demonstrated a personal commitment to understand the extent of the problems facing the parks as well as the need for immediate action," wrote James Price, President of the Park People.

At their annual awards dinner, the Roman Milewski Amvets Post 4 presented Supervisor McCue with their Community Service Award "for service to veterans in the City of South Milwaukee". Amvets Post 4 celebrated their 60th year of helping local veterans and our community. Congratulations!

## VANDALS IN OUR PARKS MUST BE CAUGHT

This fall someone set the Sheridan Park playground on fire, which completely destroyed the playground. Our parks department has insurance and the playground will be rebuilt.

Graffiti continues to pop up in our parks. The parks staff works diligently to remove the graffiti as soon as it is spotted. I have made numerous requests to Sheriff Clarke for increased patrols in our parks.

Illegal behavior in our parks cannot be tolerated. If you have any information regarding any criminal behavior in our parks please contact the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department at 278-4700.



The late Bernice Kelly helped Supervisor McCue cut the ribbon on the new Kelly Senior Center sign. McCue also secured funding for a new parking lot at the Kelly Senior Center.

\$1 off

Museum admission

Milwaukee Public MUSEUM

A World of Difference

Visit the Milwaukee Public Museum!

Offer valid for regular Museum admission. Excludes Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Offer expires June 30, 2006.

Open Sunday: Noon- 5PM  
Monday-Saturday: 9AM-5PM  
Downtown Milwaukee  
(414) 278-2728 [www.mpm.edu](http://www.mpm.edu)

Coming Feb. 4-May 7, 2006: Saint Peter and the Vatican: The Legacy of the Popes

2006 County Resident Free Days

Complimentary admission to Milwaukee County Residents with a valid ID on the following days:

<div><div>Milwaukee Public MUSEUM</div><div>A World of Difference</div></div> <div>Mondays</div>	<div><div>MITCHELL PARK DOMES</div></div> <div>Mondays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. (except holidays)</div>
<div><div>MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM</div></div> <div>Mondays and Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon</div>	<div><div>Milwaukee County ZOO</div></div> <div>January 7 March 3</div> <div>February 4 April 9</div>